MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know why it is kept closed for such a long time ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Owing to repairs having to be done.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether an estimate has been called for two years ago and sanction of the amount was made for the reconstruction of the bridge ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer. Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I claim notice.

Extension and completion of the Chittar road.

27. ✻ MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the construction of the Chittar road was sanctioned;

(*b*) how many miles of the road have been constructed;

(*c*) when it was constructed;

(*d*) how many miles more remain to be constructed for its completion

(*e*) whether a grant for the annual maintenance of the completed portion of the road is sanctioned :

(*f*) whether the whole of the completed portion of the road is annually maintained ; and

(*g*) why the completion of the road is postponed indefinitely ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) :

(*a*) The construction of the first six miles of the road was sanctioned in February 1930 and the 7th mile in February 1931.

(*b*) First seven miles.

(*c*) in 1933.

(*d*) 5¼ miles.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) For want of funds.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from the Government the amount allotted per mile for the annual maintenance of the Chittar Road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Rs. 300 for the first six miles and Rs. 40 for the remaining miles.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that, from the 7th mile onwards, though money is allotted for the annual maintenance, it is not made use of for the last so many years ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : No

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether Government would ask the Chief Engineer to investigate the affairs and see that the amount for the annual maintenance is utilised ?

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PRESIDENT : The Chief Engineer said "No."

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Chief Engineer has inspected that road at any time after he has assumed office ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Chief Engineer is aware that the allotment for the annual maintenance of the Chittar Road after the 7th mile is not utilised properly ?

MR. G B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It seems to be a reflection upon the departmental officers that they have not expended the money and I do not accept that statement.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether non-official members cannot make any reflection upon the irregularities of the Government members or the Department ?

PRESIDENT : He does not accept the statement.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : The Chief Engineer said that he has not gone to that road ever since he took up office. At least after I have sent up this question he could have gone there. It is only 20 miles from the headquarters.

PRESIDENT : It cannot be called a gross error because it is not possible for the Chief Engineer to run up to every place which is connected with any interpellation that comes up before the House.

P. W. D. Tolls.

28. ✻ **MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the system existing in British India and Cochin in the matter of payment of P. W. D. toll ; and

(*b*) the principles underlying the location of toll-gates in different centres of the State at present ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) :

(*a*) Government are not aware.

(*b*) The vehicles that use the roads should contribute at least a portion of the annual expenditure towards the maintenance of the roads and a part of the capital expenditure for the construction of costly and important bridges.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether Government are aware of the representation of Mr. Karayalar regarding the abolition of the toll-gates ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : There have been several representations made for the abolition of toll-gates in Travancore.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether Government have considered all such representations regarding the abolition of toll gates ?

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